

Message Text

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SUBJ: PAID POLITICAL "ADVERTISEMENTS" CURTAILED
IN KUWAIT PRESS

1. ADDITION TO ARTICLE 35 OF PRESS LAW, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, IS DESIGNED TO CURTAIL LOCAL NEWSPAPER PANDERING TO "FOREIGN INTERESTS". AMENDMENT STATES COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CAN "... SUSPEND ANY NEWSPAPER FOR A PERIOD NOT MORE THAN TWO YEARS OR TO CANCEL ITS LICENSE IF IT IS PROVED THAT IT SERVES INTERESTS OF A FOREIGN STATE OR CORPORATION OR IF ITS POLICY CLASHES WITH THE NATIONAL INTEREST OR IF IT APPEARS THAT IT HAS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE OR AID IN ANY FORM WHATSOEVER... WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION." FURTHER, "NEWSPAPERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PUBLISH ANY ADVERTISEMENTS OR STATEMENTS FROM A FOREIGN STATE OR AUTHORITY WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION."

2. EXAMPLE OF TYPES OF ARTICLES AMENDMENT WILL CURTAIL IS THE PLANTED SPEECHES OF NORTH KOREAN LEADER KIM IL SUNG. ACCORDING TO CHIEF OF INTER-
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NATIONAL NEWS DESK OF RECENTLY BANNED DAILY, AL

WATAN, ALL KUWAITI DAILES ACCEPTED SUCH "ADVERTISING" FROM THE NORTH KOREAN TRADE MISSION IN KUWAIT FOR WHICH DAILIES ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY 50,000 DOLLARS ANNUALLY. BY LOOSE VERBAL AGREEMENT, THE PAPERS WHICH ACCEPTED NORTH KOREAN FUNDS AGREED "KEEP SOUTH KOREAN VIEWS OUT OF LOCAL PRESS." IT IS THIS SORT OF "MERCENARY" BEHAVIOR THAT WILL NOW BE CURTAILED.

3. MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, CHANGES IN THE PRESS LAW ARE AIMED AT KEEPING NEIGHBORING ARAB COUNTRIES FROM BUYING SPACE IN LOCAL PRESS OR PAYING OFF JOURNALISTS TO PROMOTE PET INTERESTS OR USE THE KUWAIT PRESS FOR MUTUAL CONDEMNATION. FOR EXAMPLE, AL RAI AL A'AM, ON AUGUST 27 PUBLISHED A FULL PAGE INTERVIEW WITH TWO "SPOKESMEN" FOR THE SUDANESE NATIONAL FRONT, ONE A FORMER MINISTER OF HEALTH, AHMAD ZAIN ABEDEEN. BOTH MEN WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF NUMEIRY AND OF EGYPT. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE AT THE MININFO THE ARTICLE WAS FINANCED BY THE LIBYAN EMBASSY IN KUWAIT. THIS SORT OF BEHAVIOR WILL NO LONGER BE TOLERATED. IN FACT, IT WAS LEARNED TODAY THAT THE LIBYANS WERE DENIED PERMISSION TO PUBLISH AN "AD" ON THE EVE OF NATIONAL DAY GLORIFYING THE SEPTEMBER 1 REVOLUTION.
MAESTRONE

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